GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS

Published Weekly by

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

(The National Geographic Society is a scientific and educational Society, wholly altruistic, incorporated under the Federal law as a non-commercial institution for the increase of geographic knowledge and its popular diffusion.)

General Headquarters, Washington, D. C.



Contents for Week of February 11, 1935. Vol. XIII. No. 30.

- 1. Chahar, Scene of Recent Japanese Troop Advance.
- 2. Dartmouth Holds Its 25th "Jotunheim Iskarneval."
- 3. Fort Jefferson, in Dry Tortugas, Becomes National Monument.
- 4. Subject Index to Geographic News Bulletins, Volume XIII.

NOTE TO TEACHERS.—Because so many schools and public libraries preserve copies of the GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS for future reference, teachers will find the INDEX to Volume XIII, contained in this issue, of value. The INDEX covers 30 issues from February 19, 1934, through the current number.



Photograph by Walter R. Merryman

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Chahar, Scene of Recent Japanese Troop Advance

AGAIN come reports of clashes between Chinese and Japanese forces in the Far East. And again, for the third consecutive year, the new State of Manchutikuo (Manchuria plus Jehol) is having "growing pains."

Scene of the latest friction is along a vaguely-defined borderland between the Inner Mongolian province of Chahar and the Manchutikuoan province of Jehol. Not far to the south of the zone of disturbance is the important city of Kalgan.

Chahar is not as well known to the outside world as is its neighbor, Jehol. It is a triangular expanse of plateau country with an area almost twice that of the State of New York.

Once Land of Nomads

Before Jehol was sliced from Inner Mongolia to form the western province of Manchutikuo, this long, lean layer of Chinese territory, just north of the Great Wall, was divided into four parts: Jehol, Chahar, Suiyuan, and Ningsia. Chahar and Jehol together made up about a third of the former area of Inner Mongolia, but represented a much larger proportion of its potential wealth.

Although Chahar was once almost entirely a land of nomads, or wandering herdsmen living in felt yurts or tents, in recent decades it has developed as a farming region. Deserts along its northern frontier remain barren wastes, but in the south and central portions hardy settlers have planted oats, wheat, buckwheat, millet and beans, and have slowly extended their acreage during the last few years.

Chahar, and its neighboring provinces in Inner Mongolia, can charge their lack of progress in the past, in part at least, to Manchu rulers. During the Manchu reign the nomads held sway—fierce, virtually independent Mongol princes who shielded the Manchus from even more dangerous tribesmen farther north. Farming and any sort of industry were at low ebb. And the Manchu rulers frowned upon Chinese colonization.

Colonists from the South

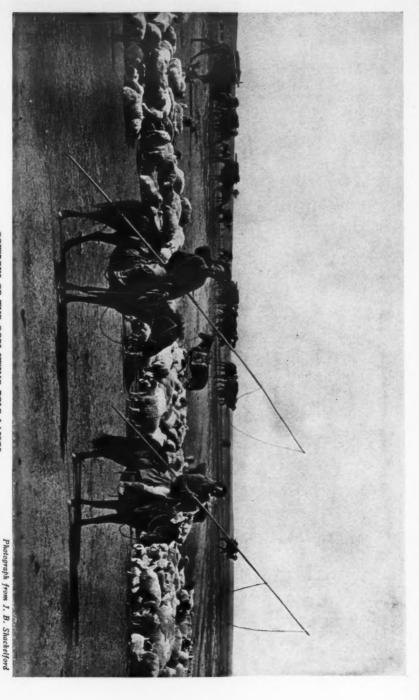
But, in the last half century, Chinese from the south have poured into the region, via the Nankow Pass, and especially since the railroad cut through once bandit-ridden mountains. Vast farm lands have been opened up, and even dairy herds have been introduced. Winters are severe, but, through irrigation, fair crops can be raised during the hot summer. To-day, nomads are not often seen in southern Chahar except as visitors to Kalgan's markets.

The province has few cities, or even towns, large enough to earn a place on ordinary maps. Kalgan, the chief community, lies in the southern part of Chahar and for centuries has been known as the "Desert Gateway to Mongolia." It is linked by railway with Peiping, Tientsin and Hankow to the south, and by an extension of the line westward to Paotowchen, on the Hwang Ho (Yellow River).

Ancient caravan routes from Peiping, via Nankow pass, spread north and west from Kalgan, reaching all the important trade centers of both Inner and Outer Mongolia, and Siberia. Because of its commercial importance, and the fact that it possesses one of the chief gates of the Great Wall, Kalgan has long been a closely-guarded, strategic spot.

The Citroën-Haardt Trans-Asiatic Expedition, the first to make the crossing of the largest continent by motor car, passed through southern Chahar in 1932, on the last lap of its 7,370-mile journey from Beyrouth, Syria, to Peiping. Dr. Mav-

Bulletin No. 1, February 11, 1935 (over).



COWBOYS OF THE GOBI SWING POLE LASSOS

Instead of a lariat, the "Will Rogers" of the Mongolian deserts wields a pole with a sliding loop of rope at its end. The loop slips over the neck of a running animal, chokes it, and so forces it to halt. Military activities in Chahar threaten caravan routes which provide the chief outlet for wool and hide exports of these desert nomads. Note camel caravan in the background (see Bulletin No. 1).

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Dartmouth Holds Its 25th "Jotunheim Iskarneval"

N WINTER the pine-clad, snow-covered granite hills of New Hampshire very much resemble the rolling white countrysides of Scandinavia. So it is fitting that ancient traditions of the Jotunheim Iskarneval (which means an ice carnival in the reputed home of the Norse gods) should be carried on at Dartmouth, the chief center of learning in the Granite State of the North.

The old Norse gods were said to have been very fond of hearty outdoor games, skiing, torchlight parades, and fantastic ice thrones. All these features, and a few others, are included in the 25th annual celebration of the famous Winter Carnival, conducted by the Dartmouth

Outing Club this month.

Climate and geography mold the sports of colleges as well as of nations. Dartmouth Callege is situated in the remote town of Hanover, among the foothills of the White Mountains, where the hand of winter lies heavy on the land during a large part of the scholastic year. This factor is largely responsible for the organization of an athletic body unique in the annals of student life in America.

Climate Favors Winter Sports

Unlike football, baseball, and basket-ball teams, each of which enlists the active efforts at play of a limited number of athletes, the Dartmouth Outing Club comprises more than two-

thirds of the entire student body.

The long months of cold and deep snows that serve to isolate this college community have, through the Outing Club, been converted into an asset rather than a liability, and Dartmouth has been a pioneer in the movement to enlist the entire student body in healthful sport, instead of offering the college "letter" only to those whose physical prowess has been proved on the playing field—although Dartmouth also awards team letters.

Beginning modestly, with sixty members a few years ago, the Club confined its excursions to Saturday afternoon jaunts on skis and snowshoes. Toward the end of the afternoon a halt would be called and coffee made over a crackling fire, under the friendly shelter of snow-laden

The trips and the size of the parties grew in number. Saturday afternoon hikes were expanded into week-end journeys; the radius of the winter excursions from a few miles to tens of miles.

Cabins for Overnight Jaunts

The camp-fire of crackling twigs under the trees has been replaced by the cheerful glow of logs in the open fireplaces of a chain of sturdy cabins along winter trails from Mount Cardigan to Mount Washington. Outing Club hikes, as described in the college publications, remind one of the heroic tales which Napoleon wrote on the face of the Alps.

The Dartmouth Outing Club, however, has been a nursery for real explorers. One of the members of the National Geographic Society Yukon Expedition which, under the leadership of Bradford Washburn, will explore and map unknown territory in the Yukon this spring, is Hartness Beardsley, undergraduate of Dartmouth and a member of the Dartmouth Outing Club. Byrd, Beebe, and other explorers have drawn upon its membership to aid them in daring

Byrd, Beebe, and other explorer can be world.

The Winter Carnival, which the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social The Winter Carnival, which the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social The Winter Carnival, which the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social The Winter Carnival, which the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social The Winter Carnival, which the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Winter Carnival and the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Winter Carnival and the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Winter Carnival and the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Outing Club sponsors annually, is the most important social the Outing Club sponsors annually and the Outing Club sponsors and the Outing Club sponsors and th and athletic event of the college year (see illustration, page 1). Beginning modestly in 1910, it was the first carnival of its type successfully attempted in the United States. To the Dartmouth Outing Club, too, belongs a large measure of credit for the popularization of many Swiss and Scandinavian winter sports among colleges and universities throughout northern United

States.

"King" and "Queen" Are Chosen

The Winter Carnival is not exclusively for the student body. Fraternities have "house parties" and there are dances, dinners, and other celebrations. A "Queen" is selected from among the fair visitors to rule with a Dartmouth "King" from a carved ice throne.

During this "Mardi Gras of the North" there is a succession of spirited races—ski and snowshoe sprints, cross-country ski races, and obstacle events—as well as ice hockey and

tobogganing.

The crowning event of the Carnival, however, is the ski-jumping contest, which is to the occasion what the chariot race of the Olympic Games was to the ancients. The approach to the ski-jump is down a steep 300-foot pathway cut through a beautiful pine forest. Not even aviation can provide more thrilling sport than that afforded by the expert on skis (see illustration on the next page).

Bulletin No. 2, February 11, 1935 (over).

nard Owen Williams, National Geographic Society representative with the expedition, found that the Chinese had considerably improved the rocky caravan route winding through Nankow Pass, and that the descent from the Great Wall by tractor

car "was almost a pleasure ride."

Although camels still carry the bulk of commerce northward across the Gobi Desert of Mongolia, Kalgan has been linked with Urga, capital of Outer Mongolia, by a motor service transporting mail, cargo, and a few passengers. More than 100,000 camels were once used on the Kalgan-Siberia caravan route to carry tea, salt and silks, while more than a million camels and a quarter million bullock wagons were employed on other inland trade routes from Kalgan.

Note: For other timely data about Mongolia, the Mongols, and Manchutikuo see: "Explorations in the Gobi Desert" and "The Glory That Was Imperial Peking," National Geographic Magazine, June, 1933; "Here in Manchuria," February, 1933; "From the Mediterranean to the Yellow Sea by Motor," November, 1932; "Raft Life on the Hwang Ho (Yellow River)," June, 1932; "Byroads and Backroads of Manchuria," January, 1932; "Manchuria, Promised Land of Asia," October, 1929; "The Desert Road to Turkestan," June, 1929; "World's Greatest Overland Explorer (Marco Polo)," November, 1928; "The Road to Wang Ye Fu," February, 1926; and "The Great Wall in China," February, 1923.

Bulletin No. 1, February 11, 1935.



Photograph from J. B. Shackelford

A YOUNG MOTHER OF CHAHAR

This tribeswoman is typical of the nomadic folk of eastern Inner Mongolia, where Japanese and Chinese forces are reported to be again in conflict.

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Fort Jefferson, on Dry Tortugas, Becomes National Monument

IKE the tail of a gigantic kite, a string of coral keys curves gracefully south and west from the foot of Florida around into the Gulf of Mexico. At the tip of the tail is Key West, southernmost city in the United States.

But the kite-tail does not really end at Key West. Some sixty miles to the west, like an afterthought, or fragments of kite-tail broken away, the Dry Tortugas group rises from the blue-

The Dry Tortugas, however, are nothing more than seven low bars of wind-swept shell and coral sand, sparsely covered with small bay cedars and palms, encircled by dangerous reefs, and uninhabited-except for a few faithful lighthouse keepers, and thousands upon thousands of nesting sooty and noddy terns (see illustration, last page).

An Almost Forgotten Stronghold

Last month the Dry Tortugas came into the news through an abandoned fortress that is all but forgotten except by historians, veterans of the Civil War, and the Navy Department. Fort Jefferson, on Garden Key, whose fully bastioned brick and stone walls once earned for it the nickname "Gibraltar of America," was transferred from the Navy Department to the National Park Service.

Long obsolete as a means of defense, the hoary stronghold now is a National Monument by

Presidential order.

Despite its resounding nickname, however, the dismantled and decaying Fort Jefferson has played no important part in military history. Built in 1846, it was supposed to guard the ship lanes between Cuba and Florida, but even before it was completed the vast citadel was agreed to be a military mistake. It was garrisoned, however, early during the Civil War and held by

Federal forces throughout the conflict, serving as a prison after 1863.

No enemy gun ever poured shot and shell into its barracks. A Confederate gunboat sailed cautiously within range in 1861, but it was frightened away when the commander of the fort trained upon the warship his full complement of huge, black guns—scarcely a dozen of which

were loaded!

When Horror and Death Reigned within Its Walls

Although favored by Mars, the grim old stronghold is no stranger to horror and death! Within its moated walls yellow fever suddenly appeared in August, 1867. Both ways it spread from the bed of the first patient. The whole side of the fort in which it broke out was evacuated by the terrified garrison, and closed off from the remainder by partitions. But right and left of the abandoned gallery the men nearest the partitions next fell ill, and the plague renewed its march. Hospital facilities were overtaxed; deaths occurred daily and intent the partition of the partitions of the plague renewed.

immediate burials followed without ceremony.

All officers, including the surgeon, died, and for a time direction of medical affairs rested with a prisoner, the unfortunate Dr. Samuel A. Mudd, who had been imprisoned there because he was believed to be one of the conspirators involved in the assassination of President Lincoln. (It was Dr. Mudd, who, when awakened in the dead of night, at his Maryland home below Washington, set the broken leg of John Wilkes Booth, the assassin.)

Dr. Mudd courageously tended the sick and dying at Fort Jefferson until he, too, was taken ill. He recovered, and, because of his heroic efforts, was granted a full pardon, although he

never fully regained his health.

Reoccupied During War with Spain

Fort Jefferson was finally abandoned in 1873, although it was temporarily reoccupied by American troops during the Spanish-American War. Since 1900 it has been a ward of the

Navy Department.

As a National Monument it will be open to visitors. Already a force of relief workers has cleaned up part of the courtyard and is installing quarters for those who come by boat or plane and wish to remain overnight. Fort Jefferson is one of the least-known bits of American domain, because under Navy rule it was closed to all visitors, and not even airplanes were permitted to fly over it.

Bulletin No. 3, February 11, 1935 (over).

These contests do not take place among the students of Dartmouth only. Canadian, as well as other American schools, often send teams of jumpers to the Carnival, when the struggle for supremacy assumes an international as well as an intercollegiate flavor.

Note: For photographs of winter sports in many parts of the world see also: "Southern California at Work," National Geographic Magazine, November, 1934; "Among the Big Trees of California," August, 1934; "Peaks and Trails in the Canadian Alps" and "Youth Explores Its World (Boy Scouts)," May, 1934; "New York—An Empire within a Republic," November, 1933; "Freiburg—Gateway to the Black Forest," August, 1933; "Sking in Switzerland's Realm of Winter Sports," March, 1933; "Washington, the Evergreen State," February, 1933; "Ontario, Next Door," August, 1932; "Colorado, a Barrier That Became a Goal," July, 1932; "New Hampshire, the Granite State," September, 1931; "Illinois, Crossroads of the Continent," May, 1931; "Norway, a Land of Stern Reality," July, 1930; "The Green Mountain State (Vermont)," March, 1927; "Canada from the Air," October, 1926; "The Beauty of the Bavarian Alps," June, 1926; "Norway and the Norwegians," June, 1924; "The Scenery of North America," April, 1922; and "Skiing Over the New Hampshire Hills," February, 1920.

Bulletin No. 2, February 11, 1935.

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WILL HE LAND RIGHT SIDE UP?

One of the most thrilling exhibitions of the mid-winter carnival at Dartmouth is the backsomersault through space on skis. The ability to judge the exact moment for the leap into the air, while traveling at the rate of forty miles an hour, is an essential factor in the success of feat. The knees act as shock-absorbers.

INDEX TO GEOGRAPHIC NEWS BULLETINS AND ILLUSTRATIONS

Covering Volume XIII, No. 1, February 19, 1934, through No. 30, February 11, 1935.

AFRICA

General:

Salt and Golf Clubs Needed on African Motor Tours, 2 illustrations, October 22, 1934,

Algeria-Tunisia: Illustration: Harvesting Dates, Jerid, December 17, 1934.

Belgian Congo: Clay-Daubed Congo Subjects of New Belgian King, illustrated, April 9, 1934.

Additional illustration: Tractor Car Crossing Bridge, October 22, 1934.

Authorities Scoff at "Pharaoh's Curse" in Tutankhamen's Tomb, illustrated, February 26, 1934.

Italian Somaliland: De You Know Italian Somaliland's illustrated, November 12, 1934.

Libya: Depending Tomport Desper into Africa, illustrated, January 28, 1935.

Natal: Sahara: Illustration: Caravan Trail, October 22, 1934.

Afghanistan: Afghanistan Hails Heir to the Throne, 2 illustrations, November 12, 1934.

Oil for the Lamps of China—and Waterproof Tables, illustrated, February 19, 1934.
What Do They Use for Money in China? illustrated, April 23, 1934.
Nanking Seeks a Place Beside London, Washington, and Paris, illustrated, October 1, 1934.
Chahar, Scene of New Japanese Troop Advance, 3 illustrations, February 11, 1935.
French Indo-China: Annam, "Carrying-Pole" of French Indo-China, illustrated, November 26, 1934.
Hadhramaut: "Set-Back Skyscrapers" of the Arabian Deserts, illustrations, March 12, 1934.
Mayore Benefits from New South Indian Dam, 2 illustrations, March 12, 1934.
Mysore Benefits from New South Indian Dam, 2 illustrations, October 15, 1934.
Persia Wants To Be Called "Iran," 3 illustrations, January 21, 1935.
Voild's Longest Air Race Dwarfs Geography, 3 illustrations, November 5, 1934.
Iraq: Woild's Longest Air Race Dwarfs Geography, 3 illustrations, November 5, 1934.
Iraq Pipe Line Follows Age-Old Caravan Trails, 2 illustrations, January 14, 1935, Additional illustrations: Lindbergh Visiting Tokyo Shrine, February 4, 1935.
Additional illustrations: Lindberghs Visiting Tokyo Shrine, February 19, 1934; Cherry Trees, Tokyo, Japan, April 16, 1934; Dressing Dolls, Japanese Toy Shop, December 17, 1934.

Manchuttikuo: Heinking, "Boom Town" Capital of Manchukuo, 2 illustrations, 1944.
Chahar, Scene of New Japanese Troop Advance, 3 illustrations, Berburary 11, 1935.
The Ariv, Palestine's All-Jewish "Boom City," illustrated, April 30, 1934.
Therias, A Biblical City "Gone Modern," illustrated, December 17, 1934.

The Ariv, Palestine's All-Jewish "Boom City," illustrated, April 30, 1934.

The Ariv, Palestine's All-Jewish "Boom City," illustrated, December 17, 1934.

Persia:

Tiberias, A Biblical City Cone Modern, May 18 See Iran.

The King of Siam, an Eastern Monarch with Western Hobbies, illustrated, May 7, 1934.

Siam, an Air-Conscious Oriental Kingdom, 2 illustrations, November 19, 1934.

Illustration: Women Beating Wool, February 26, 1934.

Illustration: Word's Longest Air Race Dwarfs Geography, 3 illustrations, November 5, 1934.

Cedars of Lebanon, 'the Trees of Jehovah,' illustrated, April 9, 1934.

Additional illustration: Tripoli, January 14, 1935.

voiet Socialist Republics: Vladivostok, Soviet Russia's Door to the Pacific, 2 illustrations, February 19, Sinkiang: Straits Se Syria:

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics:

1934. Khanka, Manchutikuo's Great Lake, illustrated, December 10, 1934. Khanka, Manchutikuo's Great Lake, illustrated, December 10, 1935. Yemen, Home of Mocha Coffee, Faces New Arabian Revolt, illustrated, May 14, 1934.

Yemen:

AUSTRALIA

General: World's Longest Air Race Dwarfs Geography, 3 illustrations, November 5, 1934.

New South Wales: Illustration: Sheep, Grazing, February 26, 1934.

Queensland: The Great Barrier Reef, Jig-Saw Puzzle of Australia's Coast, 1 map, January 14, 1935.

Tasmania: Tasmania, Island of Metals and Playgrounds, illustrated, March 12, 1934.

EUROPE

Styria, Austrian Province of Iron Ore and Chamois, 2 illustrations, March 5, 1934. Province of Namur, Where the Belgian King Fell, illustrated, March 12, 1934. Bridge Will Link Two Main Parts of Demmark, illustrated, Imap, December 10, 1934. Tintagel, Where Legends of King Arthur Cling, illustrated, May 7, 1934. Exeter, "the Ever Faithful City," Honors Coleridge, illustrated, October 1, 1934. The Lorna Doone Country, "Fairest in England," illustrated, Cotober 8, 1934. Colchester, Where the Oyster Is King for a Day, illustrated, October 15, 1934. Kent, the Garden of England, illustrated, November 26, 1934. Additional illustration: Domesday Book, December 10, 1934.
Place de la Concorde, Heart of Paris, illustrated, February 26, 1934.
Place de la Concorde, Heart of Paris, illustrated, February 26, 1934.
Place de la Concorde, Heart of Paris, illustrated, February 26, 1934.
Cambrai No Longer Hears Watchman's "All's Well!" May 14, 1934.
Marseille, France's Gateway to the Orient, illustrated, October 29, 1934.
Stately Memorials Mark "Bits of America" in Europe, 1 map, November 12, 1934.
Vichy, the "Saratoga Springs" of France, January 7, 1935.
Versailles, Palace of Palaces, Glitters Anew, illustrated, Berbuary 4, 1935.
Versailles, Palace of Palaces, Glitters Anew, illustrated, Pebruary 4, 1935.
Versailles, Palace of Pela Piper, illustrated Season, 2 illustrations, October 15, 1934.
Oberammergau Closes Its 31st Theatrical Season, 2 illustrations, October 18, 1934.
Oberammergau Closes Its 31st Theatrical Season, 2 illustrated, January 21, 1935.
Additional illustration: Gliders, Rhôm Mountains, October 22, 1934.
Prankfurt-am-Main, New Terminal of Oceanic Air Line, illustrated, January 21, 1935.
Additional illustration: Gliders, Rhôm Mountains, October 22, 1934.
Delphi Plans Revival of Greek Art, 2 illustrations, November 12, 1934.
Delphi Plans Revival of Greek Art, 2 illustrations, November 12, 1934.
Delphi Plans Revival of Greek Art, 2 illustrations, November 13, 1934.
Delphi Plans Revival of Greek Art, 2 illust Austria: Belgium Denmark: England:

France:

Germany:

Greeces Hungary:

Ireland: Italys

Netherlands Norways Polands Portugali

The Dry Tortugas possess a great many attractions for fishermen and naturalists. More than 600 varieties of fish abound in the clear waters off its enveloping reefs, and Bird Key has long been a national bird and turtle refuge.

First Color Pictures Under Sea

Science remembers the Dry Tortugas as the first place that natural-color photographs of fish were ever made beneath the surface of the sea. A National Geographic Society expedition led by Dr. W. H. Longley, of Goucher College, and Charles Martin, chief of the photographic laboratories of the National Geographic Society, succeeded in obtaining many realistic pictures of parrot fish, porgies, hogfish, French grunts, grey snappers, etc., in their natural feeding grounds among the reefs.

The Dry Tortugas owe the last part of their name to Ponce de Leon, who discovered the islands in June, 1513. Tortuga is Spanish for turtle. The famous explorer captured 170 of the

reptiles there to replenish the larder of his ship.

In 1565 that sturdy Elizabethan, Captain John Hawkins, homeward bound from a profitable voyage in forbidden Spanish waters, visited the islands. He loaded his pinnace with birds of species that still breed there by thousands, took the flesh and eggs of great sea turtles, and set down in his log notes that read like a page from Robinson Crusoe.

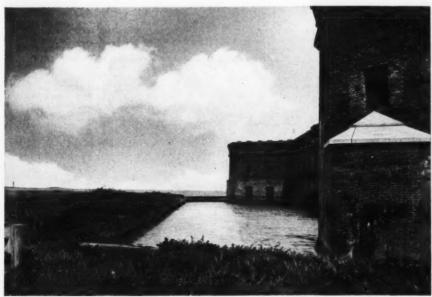
Note: For supplementary reading and references see: "Coral Castle Builders of Tropic Seas," National Geographic Magazine, June, 1934; "Florida—the Fountain of Youth," January, 1930; and "The First Autochromes from the Ocean Bottom" also "Life on a Coral Reef,"

January, 1927.

See also "Map of Mexico, Central America, and the West Indies," published as a free supplement to the December, 1934, National Geographic Magazine. Extra copies of this map may be obtained for 50 cents postpaid from the Washington, D. C., headquarters of the National

Geographic Society.

Bulletin No. 3, February 11, 1935.



Photograph by Clarence R. Shoemaker

FORT JEFFERSON'S WALLS STILL FROWN ON ITS MOAT

A water-filled ditch once completely encircled this vast, deserted stronghold in the Dry Tortugas. There are stories that it was filled with man-eating sharks to prevent prisoners from escaping, but this bit of realism seems hardly necessary when one considers that the Dry Tortugas are sixty miles from the nearest land, and this land, Key West, is only another coral island like themselves.

Curação, a Waterless Bit of Holland in the Caribbean, illustrated, October 22, 1934.

Dry Tortugas: Fort Jefferson, on Dry Tortugas, Becomes National Monument, 2 illustrations, February 11, 1935.

Easter: Easter Lesland, Home of Mysterious Stone Images, illustrated, February 19, 1934.

Galápagos: Iceland: Galápagos, Islands of Mystery, illustrated, December 10, 1934.

Losap: Losap Islands See "Eclipse That Ended Day before It Began!" Illustrated, March 5, 1934.

Malta: Oshima: Oshima: Oshima: Oshima: Oshima: Oshima: Natural Lighthouse for Bay of Tokyo, illustrated, February 4, 1935.

Samoa: Spanish, Most Important Foreign Tongue to Americans, illustrated, December 10, 1934.

Sielly: Sumatra: Tasmania: Tasmania: Tasmania, Island of Metals and Playgrounds, illustrated, October 29, 1934.

Metals: Oshima: O

MAPS AND MAP MAKING

Airways of the United States, March 5, 1934; Ethiopia, March 19, 1934; Netherland India and Australia, April 9, 1934; Malta and Mediterranean Regions, April 30, 1934; Lake Superior, May 7, 1934; Yugoslavia, October 29, 1934; France, Showing American War Memorials, November 12, 1934; Denmark, December 10, 1934; Littoria, Italy, with Inset of Italy, January 7, 1935; Australia, Northeastern, January 14, 1935.

GEOGRAPHY OF LITERATURE

Tintagel, Where Legends of King Arthur Cling, illustrated, May 7, 1934.

Exeter, "the Ever Faithful City," Honors Coleridge, illustrated, October 1, 1934,
Nome, a City Named Through a Misnomer (London, Beach, Service), 2 illustrations, October 8, 1934.
The Lorna Doone Country, "Pairest in England," illustrated, October 8, 1934.
Hameln, City of the Pied Piper, illustrated, October 22, 1934.
Marseille, France's Gateway to the Orient (Count of Monte Cristo), illustrated, October 29, 1934.
Kent, the Garden of England (Chaucer and Dickens), illustrated, November 26, 1934.
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House, Oberammergau, Germany, October 15, 1934; Presentation of "The Suppliants" by Aeschylus,
Delphi, Greece, November 12, 1934; "Rustic Cottage," Versailles, France (Rousseau's Influence),
Pebruary 4, 1935.

TRANSPORTATION

TRANSPORTATION

General:

Atlantic City Solves a Traffic Problem, illustrated, November 19, 1934.

Automobiles:

Salt and Golf Clubs Needed on African Motor Tours, 2 illustrations, December 3, 1934.

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Aviation:

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Collarin Cape Horn in a 23-Foot Boat, 2 illustrations, December 3, 1934.

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Additional illustrations: River Boat, China, February 19, 1934; Ore Boat, Cleveland, Ohio, February 26, 1934; Outrigger Sailing Canoe, South Pacific, March 5, 1934; Dug-out Canoe, Tierra del Puego, March 19, 1934; Steamer Unloading Preight, Gdynia, Poland, April 23, 1934; Tourist Steamer, Oye, Norway, April 30, 1934; Norwegian Viking Ship, April 30, 1934; Wine Boats, Portugal, May 7, 1934; Reproduction of the Ark, Maryland, May 14, 1934; Barge, Callao, Peru, October 8, 1934; Base Ship, Beebe Expedition, January 14, 1935; The Carnegie, Aleutian Islands, February 4, 1935.

Bridges:

Bridges:

Bridges:

Bridges:

Bridge Will Link Two Main Parts of Denmark, illustrated, i map, 10, 1934.

Additional illustrations: Pont de la Concor

Canals: Illustrations: Tulip Fields and Canals, Netherlands, April 23, 1934; Gota Canal, Sweden, January 28, 1935. Norwegian Fjord Swept by "Rock-Made" Waves, 3 illustrations, April 30, 1934. Additional illustrations: Shetland Ponies, March 19, 1934; Cannel Water Carrier, Arabia, May 14, 1934; Dogs and Sledge, Alaska, May 14, 1934; Exmoor Ponies, England, October 8, 1934; Canels, Sahara, October 22, 1934; Dogs and Sledge, Antarctica, November 19, 1934; Mules and Oxen, Western United States, December 3, 1934; Horses and Sledge, Manchutikuo, December 10, 1934; Dog Sledge, Byrd Antarctic Expedition, December 17, 1934; Sheep and Cart, Azores, January 21, 1935; Llamas, Peru, January 28, 1935; Canel Caravan and Ponies, Inner Mongolia, February 11, 1935; Llamas, Peru, January 28, 1935; Canel Caravan and Ponies, Inner Mongolia, February 11, 1935; Llamas, Peru, January 28, 1935; Canel Caravan and Ponies, Inner Mongolia, February 11, 1935; Llamas, Peru, January 28, 1935; Canel Caravan and Ponies, Inner Mongolia, February 11, 1935; Llamas, Peru, January 28, 1935; Canel Caravan and Ponies, Inner Mongolia, February 11, 1935; Llamas, Peru, January 21, 1934. Annam, "Carrying-Pole" of French Indo-China, illustrated, November 26, 1934.

Railroads and Street Railways: Denver Soon To Be on Main Line to California, 2 illustrations, April 23, 1934.

Railroads Gird to Meet Bus, Airplane and Automobile Competition, 2 illustrations, May 7, 1934.

Additional illustrations: Trams, Dublin, Ireland, May 14, 1934; Carloads of Sugar Cane, Natal, November 5, 1934.

Illustrations: Moffat Tunnel, Colorado, April 23, 1934; Berdoo Tunnel. California, January 21, 1935.

The Shetlands, Noted for Ponies, Shawls and Herring, illustrated, March 19, 1934, The Clyde, a Tiny River That Nurtures Sea Giants, illustrated, October 15, 1934. Catalonia, the Workshop of Spain, illustrated, October 29, 1934. Göteborg, Where Swedish Unemployed Rebuild a Castle, January 28, 1935. Yugoslavia: Mixing, but Not Melting Pot, 2 illustrations, 1 map, October 29, 1934. Carnarvon, Birthplace of First English Prince of Wales, November 19, 1934. Scotland: Spain: Sweden: Yugoslavia: Wales:

POLAR REGIONS

Last Call for Mail to Little America, 2 illustrations, November 19, 1934. Reindeer Herd Ends Six-Year Trek; illustrated, January 14, 1935. Etah Nearest to "Santa Claus Land," illustrated, December 17, 1934. Additional illustration: Angmagsalik Harbor, January 14, 1935. Iceland Also a Land of Pire, illustrated, April 23, 1934. Antarctic: Arctic: Greenland: Icelands

NORTH AMERICA

New Exploration of Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, 2 illustrations, April 16, 1934, U. S. Postal Service Is World's Largest Business, illustrated, May 14, 1934, Nome, a City Named Through a Misnomer, 2 illustrations, October 8, 1934. Aleutian Islands, Stepping Stones Across the Pacific, February 4, 1935. Additional illustration: Alaskan with Reindeer, January 14, 1935. Purs—for Warmth, Adornment, and Badge of Office, illustrated, November 5, 1934. "How Long Will Niagara Falls Last?" illustrated, January 7, 1935. Illustrations: Lindberghs Arriving in Mexico, February 19, 1934; Flower Boat, Mexico, December 17, 1934. Alaska:

Canada:

1934

UNITED STATES

General:

America's Airways Reach Every Section of Nation, 1 map, March 5, 1934.

Sap's a-Runnin' in the "Sugar Bush," illustrated, March 12, 1934.

Cherry, Apple, Peach, Rose and Other Blosoom Festivals, 2 illustrations, April 16, 1934.

U. S. Postal Service Is World's Largest Business, illustrated, May 14, 1934.

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Illustrations: Transporting Telescope Mirror, Pasadena, April 16, 1934; Berdoo Tunnel, January 21, 1935.

California:

California: Illustrations: Transporting Accessory 1935.

Colorado: Denver Soon To Be on Main Line to California, 2 illustrations, April 23, 1934.

Additional illustration: Cliff Dwellings, Mesa Verde, November 26, 1934.

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Additional illustrations: White House and Grounds, March 26, 1934; Streamline Train, Union Station,

District of Columbia: Washington Monument vetting first Dath, a Made Price of Cour New Archives, Safe Deposit Box for Nation's "Family Papers," illustrated, December 10, 1934. Additional illustrations: White House and Grounds, March 26, 1934; Streamline Train, Union Station, May 7, 1934.

Florida: Oil for the Lamps of China—and Waterproof Tables, illustrated, February 19, 1934.
Florida: Fort Jefferson, on Dry Tortugs, Becomes National Monument, 2 illustrations, February 11, 1935.
Kentucky: Harrodsburg, Cradle of America's Near West, illustrated, December 3, 1934.
Additional illustration: Louissinas Duck Marshes, February 4, 1935.
Maryland: Additional illustration: Louissinas Duck Marshes, February 4, 1935.
Massachusetts: Illustration: Three Centuries of its History, 3 illustrations, May 14, 1934.
Michigan: Massachusetts: Illustrations: Shot Tower, Baltimore, November 12, 1934.
Michigan: History, March S., 1934.
Millustration: Blackfoot Indians, Glacier National Park, April 9, 1934.
Mebraska: Illustration: Brackber Balloon over Farmland, October 1, 1934.
New Hampshire: Dartmouth Holds Its 25th "Jotunheim Iskanreval," 2 illustrations, Pebruary 11, 1935.
Additional illustration: Toy Shop, South Tamworth, December 17, 1934.
New Jersey: New Jersey Honors Native Son Who Became President, illustrated, March 26, 1934.
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New York: "How Long Will Niagara Falls Last?" illustrated, Jonuary 7, 1935.
Additional illustrations: De Will Cliston (train), New York City, May 7, 1934; Rope-making, Auburn, Jonuary 28, 1935; Crows, Ithace, February 4, 1935.
North Carolina: An Air Pilgrinage to the Birthylace of Aviation, illustrated, February 26, 1934.
Pennsylvania: Philadelphia of Pans Affect Three Ctates, illustrated, March 19, 1934.
Additional illustration: Middleton Knumer's Parace, November 19, 1934.
Pennsylvania: Philadelphia of Pans Af

CENTRAL AMERICA

Panama: Salvador: Panama—the Republic, Not the Canal, illustrated, March 26, 1934. El Salvador, and Its Capital, San Salvador, illustrated, February 19, 1934.

SOUTH AMERICA

Spanish, Most Important Foreign Tongue to Americans, illustrated, October 15, 1934. Illustration: Drying Cacao Beans, Ilhéos, October 1, 1934. Magallanes, the World's Southernmost City, illustrated, March 19, 1934. Collarin' Cape Horn in a 25-Poot Boat, 2 illustrations, December 3, 1934. Callao, Gateway to Peru and Its Capital, Lima, 2 illustrations, October 8, 1934. Peru Celebrates Its 400th Birthday, 2 illustrations, January 28, 1935. General: Brazil: Peru:

The Vanishing Fleet of Windjammers, 2 illustrations, January 28,1935.
The Aleutian Islands, Stepping Stones Across the Pacific, illustrated, February 4, 1935.
Illustration: House of Lava, Azores, January 21, 1935.
Deep Ses Life To Be Studied Half-Mile Below Surface, 2 illustrations, April 9, 1934.
World's Record Deep-Sea Dives Made Off Bermuda, 2 illustrations, October 22, 1934. Áland: Aleutian: Bermuda:

Castles and Palaces: Tintagel, Where Legends of King Arthur Cling, illustrated, May 7, 1934.
Carnarvon, Birthplace of First English Prince of Wales, illustrated, November 19, 1934.
Goteborg, Where Swedish Unemployed Rebuild a Castle, illustrated, January 28, 1935.
Versailles, Palace of Palaces, Glitters Anew, illustrated, February 4, 1935.
Additional illustrations: Crusader Castle, Palestine, December 17, 1934; Chateau Raymond, Tripoli, Versailes, Palace of Palaces, Glitters Anew, illustrated, February 4, 1935.
Additional illustrations: Crusader Castle, Palestine, December 17, 1934. (Chateau Raymond, Tripoli, Syria, January 14, 1935.

Ceremonies and Customs: Saluting by Gunfire an Ancient Ceremony, illustrated, April 30, 1934.
Samoa's 'Calling of the Shark and the Turtle,' 2 illustrations, December 10, 1934.
Additional illustrations: Ethiopian Debtor and Creditor, March 19, 1934; Washing Clothes in Geyser Water, Iceland, April 23, 1934.

Children: Illustrations: Austrian Boys, March 5, 1934; Japanese Girl, April 16, 1934; Yaghans, Tierra del Fuego, December 3, 1934; Eskimo Baby, Greenland, January 14, 1935; Children of the Azores, January 21, 1935.

Churches, Cathedrals, and Mosques: Exeter, 'the Ever Faithful City,' Honors Coleridge, illustrated, October 1, 1934.
Kent, the Garden of England, illustrated, November 26, 1934.
Additional illustrations: La Madeleine, Paris, from the Air, February 26, 1934; Mosque, Kashmir, March 12, 1934; Trinity Church, St. Marys City, Maryland, May 14, 1934; Notre Dame de la Garde, Marseille, France, October 29, 1934; ethiopian Men, Comfort (Part II), illustrated, March 26, 1934.

Clothing and Costumes: Wool, Sheep's Glift to Man's Comfort (Part II), illustrated, March 26, 1934; Congo Dancers, April 9, 1934; Japanese Women and Children, April 16, 1934; Norwegian Housewife, April 30, 1934; Holiday Parade, Mysore, India, October 15, 1934; March 26, 1934; Congo Dancers, April 9, 1934; Japanese Women and Children, April 16, 1934; Norwegian Housewife, April 30, 1934; Holiday Parade, Mysore, India, October 15, 1934; March 26, 1934; Rice Harvesters, Annam, November 26, 1934; Ethiopian Men, March 19, 1934; Holer Dress in Yugoslavia, October 29, 1934; Silversmith, Baghdad, Iraq, November 5, 1934; Turkoman Wearing Shako, November 12, 1934; Afgendary 14, 1935; Pur Costume, Alaska, January 14, 1935; Persian Woman, January 21, 1935; Cireneland, January 14, 1935; Pur Costume, Alaska, January 14, 1935; Persian Woman, January 2 Additional illustration: Presentation of "The Suppliants" by Aeschylus, Delphi, Greece, November 12, 1934.

Dartmouth Holds Its 25th "Jotunheim Iskarneval," 2 illustrations, February 11, 1935.

Additional illustrations: Building of the Educational Department, Hsinking, Manchutikuo, March 5, 1934; Examination Halls, Nanking, China, October 1, 1934; Classroom, Puerto Rican School, October 15, 1934; Examination Halls, Nanking, China, October 1, 1934; Classroom, Puerto Rican School, October 15, 1934; University of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1934.

Deep Sea Life To Be Studied Half-Mile Below Surface, 2 illustrations, April 9, 1934.

New Exploration of Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, 2 illustrations, April 16, 1934.

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World's Record Deep-Sea Dives Made off Bermuda, 2 illustrations, October 22, 1934.

Last Call for Mail to Little America, 2 illustrations, December 3, 1934.

Collarin' Cape Horn in a 25-Foot Boat, 2 illustrations, December 3, 1934.

Etah, Nearest to "Santa Claus Land," illustrated, December 17, 1934.

To Repeat Stratosphere Flight from Black Hills, 2 illustrations, January 7, 1935.

Sea, Stratosphere, and Polar Lee Featured in 1934 Explorations, illustrated, January 14, 1935.

Helium To Lift New Stratosphere Balloon, illustrated, Pebruary 4, 1935.

Additional illustration: Citroen Central African Expedition, Belgian Congo, October 22, 1934.

Catalonia, the Workshop of Spain, illustrated, October 29, 1934.

Ladditional illustration: Manufacture of Flags, Philadelphia, March 19, 1934.

Illustrations: Bluebeard's Fort, Virgin Islands, March 26, 1934; Desert Fortress, Arabia, April 16, 1934; Fort Pett, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1934; Port Jefferson, Dry Tortugas, Pebruary 11, 1935. Education: Expeditions: Flags: Forts: Government: Magallanes, the World's Southernmost City (Free Port), illustrated, March 19, 1934.

Hiladelphia's Plans Affect Three States, illustrated, March 19, 1934.

Gdynia, Poland's Thriving New Door to the Sea (Free Port), 2 illustrations, April 23, 1934.

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The Eyes of Europe Are on the Saar, illustrated, January 7, 1935.

Littoria, Italy's 93rd Province, 2 illustrations, 1 map, January 7, 1935.

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Persis Wants To Be Called "Irsan," 3 illustrations, January 21, 1935.

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Additional illustration: Pu Yi as President of Manchutikuo, Receives League of Nations Commission, March 5, 1934. Additional illustration: Pu Yi as President of Manchutikuo, Receives League of Nations Commission, March 5, 1934.

History:

New Jersey Honors Native Son Who Became President, illustrated, March 26, 1934.

The Black Hills, Scene of Big Indian Powwow, 2 illustrations, April 9, 1934.

Maryland Recalls Three Centuries of Its History, 3 illustrations, May 14, 1934.

Historic Yorktown Pays Tribute to General Lafayette, illustrated, November 5, 1934.

Stately Memorials Mark "Bits of America" in Europe, 1 map, November 12, 1934.

Pittsburgh Has a Trade Jubilee, 3 illustrations, November 26, 1934.

Harrodoburg, Cradle of America's Near West, illustrated, December 3, 1934.

Across the Continent—in Two Years, and in a Day, 2 illustrations, December 3, 1934.

Versailles, Palace of Palaces, Glitters Anew, illustrated, Pebruary 4, 1935.

Fort Jefferson, on Dry Totugas, Becomes National Monument, 2 illustrations, February 11, 1935.

Additional illustration: Domesday Book, England, December 10, 1934.

Holidays, Festivals, and Fairs: Parisian Mid-Lent Festival Started by Washerwomen, illustrated, March 12, 1934.

Cherry, Apple, Peach, Rose and Other Blossom Festivals, 2 illustrations, April 16, 1934.

Tel Aviv, Palestine's All-Jewish "Boom City," illustrated, March 26, 1934.

Cherry, Apple, Peach, Rose and Other Blossom Festivals, 2 illustrations, April 16, 1934.

Tel Aviv, Palestine's All-Jewish "Boom City," illustrated, April 30, 1934.

Hameln, City of the Pied Piper; illustrations, November 26, 1934.

Pittaburgh Has a Trade Jubilee, 3 illustrations, November 26, 1934.

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Pittaburgh Has a Trade Jubilee, 3 illustrations, March 5, 1934.

Ceneral:

Pittsburgh Has a Trade Jubilee, 3 illustrations, November 26, 1934.

Agricultures.

Additional illustrations: Townsend Harris Memorial. Isu Perinsulal, apan, February 4, 1935.

Natal, South African Region of Sugar, Corn, Cotton, and Wattles, illustrated, November 1, 1934.

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November 12, 1934. Floughing, Islaina Somaliand, November 12, 1934.

Asphalt, from Mummies to the Mississippi, illustrated, November 19, 1934.

Baldiding and Construction: Histinicing, "Boom Town" Capital of Manchakuo, 2 illustrations, March 5, 1934.

Building and Construction: Histinicing, "Boom Town" Capital of Manchakuo, 2 illustrations, March 5, 1934.

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Cacacio: Colothy: Cambrie Colothy: Ca

March 5, 1934. Additional illustration: Herding Sheep, Inner Mongolia, February 11, 1935. **HUMAN GEOGRAPHY** HUMAN GEOGRAPHY

Archeology: Easter Island, Home of Mysterious Stone Images, illustrated, February 19, 1934.
Authorities Scoff at "Pharaoh's Curse" in Tutankhamen's Tomb, illustrated, February 26, 1934.
"Set-Back Skyscrapers" of the Arabian Deserts, illustrated, April 16, 1934.
Delphir Plans Revival of Greek Art, 2 illustrations, November 12, 1934.
Additional illustrations: Norwegian Viking Ship, April 30, 1934; Mesa Verde, Colorado, November 26, 1934; Persepolis, Iran, January 21, 1935.

Architecture: Flace de la Concorde, Paris, illustrated, February 26, 1934.
Dublin, City of 18th Century Charm, 2 illustrations, May 14, 1934.
Colchester, Where the Oyster Is King for a Day, illustrated, December 3, 1934.
Additional illustrations: House of Parliament and Town Hall, Vienna, Austria, March 5, 1934; Government Building, Hainking, Manchutikuo, March 5, 1934; Mosque, Kashmir, March 12, 1934; "Skyscraper" Fort, Arabia, April 16, 1934; Modern Bungalows, Palestine, April 30, 1934; Washington Monument and Government Buildings, Washington, D. C., October 1, 1934; Parlenda, Spain, October 29, 1934; Pittsburgh University Building, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1934; Rathaus, Saarbrücken, Saar Valley, January 7, 1935.

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Art: Illustration: "The Caravan on Its Way," Painting by Frederic Remington, December 3, 1934.

Boundaries: Khanka, Manchutikuo's Great Lake, illustrated, December 10, 1934.

Calendar Reform: Our Wandering Easter Day, 2 illustrations, March 26, 1934.

Engineering-Continued

Engineering—Continued
Iraq Pipe Line Follows Age-Old Caravan Trails, 2 illustrations, January 14, 1935.
World's Engineering Changes During 1934, illustrated, January 21, 1935.
Additional illustration: Moffat Tunnel Entrance, Colorado, April 23, 1934.
Coloraters: Sea Monsters Swim Through the Headlines, illustrated, March 19, 1934.
Colorater, Where the Oyster 1s King for a Day, illustrated, October 15, 1934.
World's Record Deep-Sea Dives Made Off Bermuda, 2 illustrations, October 22, 1934.
Additional illustration: Chiasmodon Niger, April 9, 1934.
Flowers and Plants: Cherry, Apple, Peach, Rose and Other Blossom Festivals, 2 illustrations, April 16, 1934.
It's Tulip Time in Holland, illustrated, December 17, 1934.
Additional illustration: Nelson Garden, Yorktown, Virginia, November 5, 1934.
Ilustration: Butterfly Farm, Kent, England, November 26, 1934.
Mammals:
Wool, Sheep's Gift to Man's Comfort (Part I), 3 illustrations, February 26, 1934.
Reindeer Herd Ends Six-Year Trek, illustrated, January 14, 1935.
Additional illustrations: Ponies, Shetland Islands, March 19, 1934; Bison, South Dakota, April 9, 1934; Dog and Cat in a "Gun Salute," April 30, 1934; Camel Water Carrier, Yemen, Arabia, May 14, 1934; Ogen and Oxeart, Maryland, May 14, 1934; Dog Team and Sledge, Alaska, May 14, 1934; Ponies, England, October 8, 1934; Elephants Pling Teak, Siam, November 19, 1934; Dog Team and Sledge, Alaska, May 14, 1934; Oxen and Mules, United States, December 19, 1934; Dog Team and Sledge, Alaska, Antarctica, November 19, 1934; Horses and Sledge, Manchutikuo, December 10, 1934; Liamas, Peru, January 28, 1935; Herding Sheep, Inner Mongolia, February 11, 1935.
Oceanography: Deep Sea Life To Be Studied Half-Mile Below Surface, 2 illustrations, April 9, 1934.
The Great Barrier Reef, Jig-Saw Puzzle of Australia's Coast, 1 map, January 14, 1935.
Additional illustration: Bathyspher, Beebe Expedition, January 14, 1935.
Photography: The King of Siam, an Eastern Monarch with Western Hobbies, illustrated, May 7, 1934.
Reptiles: Illustrati

Additional illustration: Rev. Bernard R. Hubbard Photographing Aniakchak Volcano, Alaska, 16, 1934.

Reptiles: Additional illustration: Sea Iguana, Galápagos Islanda, December 10, 1934.

Scientific Instruments: Illustration: Instruments. Stratosphere Balloon, January 7, 1935.

Stratosphere Flights: Biggest Stratosphere Balloon Taking Shape in Akron, illustrated, April 30, 1934.

Stratosphere Flight Yielde Valuable Data, 3 illustrations, October 1, 1934.

To Repeat Stratosphere Flight from Black Hills, 2 illustrations, January 7, 1935.

Helium To Lift New Stratosphere Balloon, illustrated, February 4, 1935.

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Cherry, Apple, Peach, Rose and Other Blossom Festivals, 2 illustrations, October 1, 1934.

The Date—One of the World's Oldest Foods, 2 illustrations, December 17, 1934.

Additional illustration: Eucalyptus Logs, Tasmania, March 12, 1934.



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THE "DINING CAR" ON THE RAILROAD TO INNER MONGOLIA

The train halts at mealtime and everyone rushes to open-air lunch stands such as these-not a pleasant interlude if the temperature is below freezing and the wind is strong. The man with the football numerals on his back is a porter. This photograph, made in winter, shows the different types of travellers journeying along the chief trade artery between Peiping and Chahar (see Bulletin No. 1).

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League of Nations: The Eyes of Europe Are on the Saar, illustrated, January 7, 1935.
Lindbergh, (Col. and Mrs.) Charles A.: Mrs. Anne Morrow Lindbergh Awarded Hubbard Medal, 2 illustrations, February 19, 1934.

Music and Dancing: Leipzig, City of Fairs, Recalls Franklin's Visit, illustrated, March 26, 1934.
Additional illustrations: Congo Dance, April 9, 1934; Peasant Dancers, Delphi, Greece, November 12, 1934.

National Geographic Society: Mrs. Anne Morrow Lindbergh Awarded Hubbard Medal, 2 illustrations, Febru-

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New Exploration of Alaska Peninsula and Aleutian Islands, 2 illustrations, April 16, 1934.

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To Repeat Stratosphere Flight from Black Hills, 2 illustrations, October 12, 1935.

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Bert In Lift New Stratosphere Balloon, Illustrated, February 4, 1935.

Dartmouth Holds Its 25th "Jotunheim Islanneval," 2 illustrations, Pebruary 11, 1935.

Parks, Monuments, and Shrines: Isle Royale, Michigan's "Parthest North," illustrated, Imap, May 7, 1934.

Washington Monument Getting First Bath, 2 illustrations, October 1, 1934.

National Park Pictures on Postage Stamps, illustrated, October 29, 1934.

National Park Pictures on Postage Stamps, illustrated, November 26, 1934.

Harrodsburg, Cradle of America's Near West, illustrated, December 3, 1934.

Stately Memorials Mark "Bits of America' in Europe, 1 map, November 12, 1934.

Fort Jefferson, on Dry Tortugas, Becomes National Monument, 2 illustrations, February 11, 1935.

Additional illustrations: Indian Teepees, Glacier National Park, Montana, April 9, 1934; Bison, Custer State Park, South Dakota, April 9, 1934; Shiba Park, Tokyo, Japan, April 16, 1934; Nelson Pillar, Dublin, Irelan

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

General: Deserts:

Lakes:

andslides: Mountains:

PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY

Lost Continents Live in Legend, illustrated, January 21, 1935.

"Set-Back Skyscrapers" of the Arabian Deserts, illustrated, April 16, 1934.
The Date—One of the World's Oldest Foods, 2 illustrations, December 17, 1934.
Libya "Bores" Deeper into Africa, illustrated, January 28, 1935.
Additional illustrations: Sahara, October 22, 1934; Gobi, Inner Mongolia, Pebruary 11, 1935.
Isle Royale, Michigan's "Parthest North," illustrated, Imap, May 7, 1934.
Khanka, Manchutikuo's Great Lake, illustrated, December 10, 1934.
Additional illustration: Sea of Galilee, December 17, 1934.
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Additional illustration: Sea of Galilee, December 17, 1934.
Norwegian Fjord Swept by "Rock-Made" Waves, 3 illustrations, April 30, 1934.
Gliders Find "Uplifting Influences" along Virginia's Blue Ridge, illustrated, October 22, 1934.
The Clyde, a Tiny River That Nurtures Sea Giants, illustrated, October 13, 1934.
Additional illustrations: Washington's Crossing, Delaware River, March 26, 1934; Picnic Party, Weser (river), Germany, October 22, 1934; Neretva at Jablanica, Yugoslavia, October 29, 1934; Monongahela and Allegheny at Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 26, 1934; Frozen River, Manchutikuo, December 10, 1934; Tigris Banks Protected by Mats, Iraq, December 17, 1934; Göta, Sweden, January 28, 1935.
The Great Barrier Reef, Jig-Saw Puzzle of Australia's Coast, i map, January 14, 1935.
Illustrations: Geranger Fjord, Norway, April 30, 1934; Angmagsalik Harbor, Greenland, January 14, 1935.

Sea Coasts:

Springs: Volcanoes:

Illustrations: Geiranger Fjord, Norway, April Sv. 1995, 1995

POPULAR SCIENCE

Astronomy: Losap Islands See "Eclipse That Ended Day before It Began!" illustrated, March 5, 1934.

Huge Glass Disk Will Become "Star Reporter" of Heavens, illustrated, April 16, 1934.

Aviation:

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Additional illustrations: Map of Sir Ross Smith's Route from India to Australia, April 9, 1934; U. S.

Birds

Additional illustrations: Map of Sir Ross Smith's Route from India to Australia, April 9, 1934; U. S. Army Fliers Arrive at Nome, Alaska, October 8, 1934.
See also Transportation.
Turkey, "The National Thanksgiving Bird," illustrated, November 26, 1934.
Etah, Nearest to "Santa Claus Land," illustrated, December 17, 1934.
Seek Closed Season on All Migratory Waterfowl, 3 illustrations, February 4, 1935.
Additional illustrations: Baby Loons, Isle Royale, Michigan, May 7, 1934; Terns, Dry Tortugas, February 4, 1935.

rany 11, 1935.

Mysore Benefits from New South Indian Dam. 2 illustrations, October 15, 1934.

Mysore Benefits from New South Indian Dam. 2 illustrations, October 15, 1934.

Bridge Will Link Two Main Parts of Denmark, illustrated, 1 map. December 10, 1934.

"How Long Will Ningara Falls Last?" illustrated, January 7, 1935.

Littoria, Italy's 93rd Province, 2 illustrations, 1 map. January 7, 1935. Engineering:



SOME OF BIRD KEY'S 33,000 "RESIDENTS"

Photograph by Dr. Paul Bartsch

Fort Jefferson's grim walls (center) overlook a small sandy island which has been set aside as a national bird reservation. The birds with black caps and white breasts are sooty terns, which lay their eggs in the sand. The dark birds with white caps are noddy terns, generally tree-dwellers (see Bulletin No. 3).

